

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-5 and 10 are now pending in this application. In response to the final Office Action dated March 31, 2006, claims 1, 2, 5 and 10 are amended, claims 9 and 15 are canceled, and a Request for Continued Examination submitted. Claims 1-5 and 10 are now active in this application. Care has been taken to avoid the introduction of new matter. Favorable reconsideration of the application in light of the following comments is respectfully solicited.

**Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)**

In section 6 of the most recent Office Action, claims 1-5, 9-10, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,253,225 (hereinafter "Nakahara") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,513,349 (hereinafter "Horiguchi"). In response, Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, 5, and 10, and have canceled claims 9 and 15.

Claim 1 recites a task management device in which a task may place itself into an abort disabled section, but has a program execution means that nevertheless may abort said task depending upon whether attribute information associated with the task indicates that it is executing an application function or a system function. It further recites task attribute information storage means that stores attribute information indicating that a function currently executed in the first task, whenever the function is changed, is the system library function or the application function predetermined by the operation system.

The references are readily distinguished on their inability to terminate a task that exists in the abort disabled section, as they teach systems wherein a task cannot be aborted if it has asserted itself as "abort disabled." Under the teachings of Nakahara and Horiguchi, either considered individually or in combination with each other, a task executing user-written code may assert itself as "abort disabled," then proceed to execute an endless loop (possibly due to

malicious or erroneous code) and become impossible to abort because of its “abort disabled” status – at which point the operating system must be terminated (which often requires powering off the device it is running on) in order to terminate the task. No *prima facie* case of obviousness can be established on the basis of these references, as they fail to teach a program execution means as recited in claim 1.

Additionally, the references do not teach the task attribute information storage means as recited in claim 1. Claim 1 recites “storing attribute information indicating that a function currently executed in the first task, whenever the function is changed, is the system library function or the application function predetermined by the operating system.” The teachings of Nakahara are dependent upon a task maintaining its own “abort disabled” state (*see* col. 8 lines 10-22), and do not use attribute information as claimed. Horiguchi also does not disclose “storing attribute information . . . whenever the function is changed.” Due to the lack of this explicit limitation recited in claim 1, the references are further unable to sustain a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

Claims 2-4 are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1, as they are dependent upon claim 1. For the same reasons discussed for claim 1, no *prima facie* case of obviousness for claims 5 and 10 can be sustained based upon Nakahara and Horiguchi, as the references fail to teach limitations similar to those recited in claim 1. Claim 5 recites a task management method comprising the steps of “storing attribute information indicating that a function currently executed in the first task, whenever the function is changed, is the system library function or the application function predetermined by the operating system” and “aborting the first task when the attribute information of the first task is the application function, and continuing the first task when the attribute information of the first task is the system function.” Claim 10 recites a

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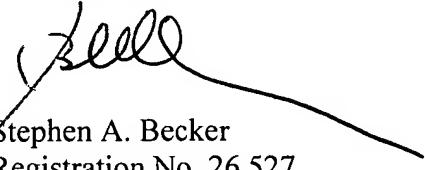
computer readable recording medium having recorded thereon a program for causing a computer to perform steps comprising the same two steps. Neither Nakahara nor Horiguchi teach these limitations as recited by the claims, and therefore similarly fail to sustain a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

For the above reasons, the Applicants believe that the application is in condition for allowance. The Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's favorable consideration as to allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's representative listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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